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HOME NEWS

Peace move in conflict between Labour parliamentary factions

By Martin Huckerby

A plan aimed at bringing peace between warring factions of MPs in the Parliamentary Labour Party will be put to backbenchers at a meeting on Thursday. But it was apparent yesterday that the proposals are unlikely to end the conflict.

The trouble began last autumn when competition between the moderate Manifesto group and the left-wing Tribune group for the chairmanships of the 34 subject groups within the PLP started to get out of hand: dozens of MPs joined groups in which they had no real interest, simply to "capture" the posts for their factions, and often ousted respected chairmen in the process.

Relative peace has now descended, since elections have been completed, but officials are anxious to ensure that such internal strife should not be repeated towards the end of this year. A five-point plan has been unanimously approved by the party's liaison committee and will be put to Thursday's meeting of the PLP.

The proposals would give all backbench MPs the right to attend and vote at the annual meetings of all subject groups. They would then register their membership of groups in which they had a particular interest. They could attend other groups in which they had an ad hoc interest, but would be unable to vote except in elections.

Warning to single parents about claiming new benefit

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Single parents are told today that they may lose money if they claim the Government's new Child Income Benefit (CIB). The National Council for One-Parent Families points out in an interim guide that because the benefit will be taxed and affect other benefits, some single parents could lose 12½p a week if they claim it.

The face value of the benefit is £1.50 a week, the same as family allowances. It will be paid from April for the first child in one-parent families, one year before a similar benefit will be extended to first children in all families.

But the guide warns that for any single parent paying tax, the benefit will be worth only 62½p a week net. Some will also lose the right to free school meals for one child, worth 75p

Research offers new light on fertility

Continued from page 1

cytoplasm (the cell fluid and its constituents).

Nuclear transplants in tissue cultures offer a clever way of experimenting to answer that question. Indeed the type of tissue culture that could be generated with Dr Bromhall's method opens many opportunities for testing drugs to replace animal experiments.

The connection with test-tube babies is less direct. The process of synchronizing transplants indicates that the normal development cycle of an egg cell is crucial in any operation.

In women with blocked fallopian tubes, egg cells can be removed and fertilized in test tubes. If they remain outside the body, however, they stop developing for some time.

Dr Bromhall suggests that egg cells and sperm should be put together in a tiny capillary tube and replaced instantly in the fallopian tubes. They would be allowed to move down to the uterus at the appropriate time. He believes under these circumstances the egg cell would remain synchronized with the natural cycle of the mother.

Bill of rights urged in party document

By Our Political Staff

The United Kingdom yesterday moved a step nearer to the introduction of a Bill of rights with the publication of a Labour Party discussion document calling for a charter of human rights, which has the backing of the Government's law officers, Mr Samuel Silkin, the Attorney General, and Mr Archer, Solicitor General.

Mr Jenkins, Home Secretary, demonstrated the Government's interest in the subject when he spoke in Birmingham last week, but the likelihood of Government support for a Bill of rights was indicated by the composition of the subcommittee which produced the discussion document, as well as the inclusion of the law officers, the subcommittee had Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, as chairman.

The Home Secretary favoured the idea of having a Bill of rights on the European Convention on Human Rights and that is the proposal which has been adopted in the Labour Party document. It would almost certainly be the quickest and simplest way of introducing such a charter.

People may already be able to appeal to Strasbourg under the European Convention, to which the United Kingdom is a signatory, but the Labour Party's document suggests incorporating the convention into British law.

That would enable aggrieved citizens to seek domestic remedies which should be easier and cheaper than the cumbersome procedure in Europe.

The document, produced by the human rights subcommittee of Labour's national executive committee, says: "We saw a need to tip the scales away from public and private concentrations of power back in favour of the individual."

It argues that the charter is needed not because human rights are grossly abused in Britain, but because the system is less sensitive than it should be to the grievances of individuals or groups.

Mrs Williams said the home policy committee of the NEC had agreed to the document being published for discussion, but with the recommendation that it was anxious to have a section on a subsidiary, the next Labour Party programme.

The document barely mentions the detailed rights involved, devoting just a single paragraph to stating them, but Mr Archer pointed out that the subcommittee hoped debate would not centre primarily on which rights should be included, or otherwise the discussion might go on for years.

He believed there was a broad spectrum of support for the rights in the European Convention, which covers such subjects as the right to life, the right not to be tortured or suffer degrading punishment, and the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

The document rejects the idea, which has some support among leading Conservatives, of enacting an entrenched Bill of rights, which could be amended only by a majority of two thirds or three quarters of both Houses of Parliament.

Mrs Williams was worried that there could be inbuilt antipathy in the future to change while Mr Archer did not want to deliver into the hands of the judges the power to declare invalid acts of Parliament. Mrs Williams added: "We are not challenging the ultimate sovereignty of Parliament."

United Kingdom Charter of Human Rights: A discussion document for the Labour movement (Labour Party, Transport House, London SW1P 3JA. 25p).

Exiles in Britain

A report referring to the difficulties of Uganda Asians in London, details of which were published in *The Times* on February 12, was awarded Tabu: Uganda Asians—the old, the weak, the vulnerable, by Jan Romijn. London Council of Social Service, 68 Chalkon Street, London NW1 1JR; 60p.

Past policies had led to uncoordinated development, with ad hoc decisions being taken as situations arose. They had resulted in airports being provided on an excessive scale and in the wrong place, with a consequent misuse of resources, despoliation of the countryside, and, in particular, suffering from noise.

The present virtually unrestrained competition between airport managements needed to be brought under centralized guidance to ensure that development was planned with national objectives which took all planning considerations into account. Until that was done, no further airport expansion should be considered.

If there had to be new airports, they should be excluded from areas of high landscape, agricultural and ecological values.

Development should be limited in size and site to what was acceptable on environmental and planning grounds to the area concerned. That meant taking account of the ripple effects of industrial and city growth and of the disturbance to which aircraft movements gave rise.

Existing airports should be used to such capacity in accordance with environmental and planning criteria before further airports were contemplated.

Small strike means big delay for oil flow

The deadlocked strike by a small group of caterers at a village built for oil workers near Firth, Shetland, is disruptive out of all proportion to its size. Because of the disruption of the 400 men working on the Sullom Voe terminal near by have been flown home. The £400m development of a lonely headland into the largest oil port in Britain has come to a standstill, earthmovers lie idle beside huge mounds of churned ground and the date when Britain becomes self-sufficient in oil is further delayed.

The effects of the strike, now almost three weeks old, have been heaped upon other delays caused by uncertainty over details of the development and difficulties between the Shetland Islands Council and the Shell and BP oil companies.

The council remains adamant that the oil industry will be allowed in only on Shetland's terms. Its object is to minimize both the crippling long-term effect on the local economy

and the hardship which it is feared will descend when the oil fields run dry.

By then the council will have invested a sizeable cushion of disturbance money, negotiable from the oil companies, which could yield for 18,500 Shetlanders up to 10m a year in interest alone if the turn of the century.

The council has won terms with the oil companies that the Government might envy and has steered through Parliament the Zetland Act, which among other things, gave it authority to acquire land ahead of speculators.

Without catering staff, there is no possibility of the Sullom Voe site functioning. When the demand for allowances and overtime rate to give parity with other workers in the area was rejected, the strike was unofficial and has been criticized by the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Even at that appears to

Regional report

Ronald Faux Sullom Voe

many expert eyes a late stage, the council and the oil companies are still arguing over problems which could add to the delays. The initial phase of the Sullom development will bring 1.2 million barrels of oil a day from the Brent and Ninian oilfields.

Yet it is still undecided whether the oil will be stored in metal surface tanks or in underground caverns drilled into Calab Ness.

While members of the council complain about lack of planning from the oil companies, the latter say the council is not blameless in holding back development.

Mediation with terrorists 'wrong'

By a Staff Reporter

Well-meaning attempts at mediation with political terrorists produced only a lull before a savage resumption of terror while bringing prestige and encouragement to the terrorists and should be wholly discouraged, Mr Conor Cruise O'Brien, Minister for Posts and Telegraphs in the Irish Government, said in Granada Television's *Opinion* programme last night.

The best way for a democracy to deal with what was called political violence was to set aside the supposedly political character of that violence and to concentrate on its criminal aspect as an armed conspiracy.

That implied a solid refusal to do any deal with the conspirators, to concede to any of their demands, or to have any contact with them at all other than that necessary for their apprehension and suppression.

Mr O'Brien suggested a lack of responsibility by the media in the sensational treatment of political violence. "It is quite certain that terrorists do consciously use the freedom of the media in an attempt to destroy the type of state which alone makes those freedoms possible," he said.

But to ask the media for voluntary restraint was, he said, probably futile, and it was probably the duty of the press to live with the freedom of the press than to attempt to curb it, he said.



Mark Davis and Roland Bowen, both nine, examining the bomb damage at Landward Court, London. They were playing on the landing above when it exploded.

Blackmail 'must be resisted'

Britain must refuse to be blackmailed by IRA terrorists, Mr William Whitelaw, former Conservative Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said yesterday.

On BBC radio's *The World This Week*, he said Mr Jenkins, Home Secretary, was absolutely right not to force-feed hunger strikers. Referring to the death of Frank Stagg, the IRA hunger striker, he said giving in to blackmail would not stop terrorism. It made

sense to make it clear to any other IRA hunger strikers in British prisons that there was going to be no giving way to blackmail.

Mr Whitelaw's comments came after a bomb exploded on Saturday night on the first floor landing near the lift shaft of a block of flats off Edgware Road, London. One man was seriously hurt. A second bomb of similar size was found by a Dublin on Saturday, said the life of Frank Stagg could have been saved by a word from those who claimed to be his leaders.

"They disgrace the name of Ireland. Their actions are a massive deterrent to any form of understanding, cooperation or dialogue between the Northern communities."

Ulster 'press card' disowned by agency

Continued from page 1

all inquiries for the agency were referred to the owner.

The owner of *Inter Press Features* is Mr Jack Aitken, a semi-retired journalist living in Orpington, Kent. He is genuinely mystified as to why anyone would want to forge press cards for his agency since *Inter Press Features* specializes in political revolution, but in the production of film stars' ghosted life stories. He says: "This press card is a complete fake."

Mr Aitken, who works one day a week on the *Sunday Express* as a sub-editor, has shared Northern Ireland only once in his life, on a press facility trip in the 1930s, although it seems that his organization has been impersonated, before. About 18 months ago he says that he would not be allowed to have never been of claimed he owed hundreds of pounds for a room. The man who stayed

there gave Mr Aitken's name and that of his agency. Only last week, Mr Aitken received a letter from an apparent reader of his work who wanted to know about the health of General Carrvallo, the Portuguese leader, with whom Mr Aitken had allegedly had an interview. But Mr Aitken has never spoken to Carrvallo.

"The symbol on the card, of a pea within a series of geometrical designs, is the shield of SLADE, the Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers Engravers and Process Workers. Why a craft union's insignia should be incorporated into a forgery of a journalist's accreditation is a matter of conjecture."

The Army in Northern Ireland is taking the view that if it did forge press cards in the future that would not be allowed now. It says that if such cards were manufactured they were not for intelligence purposes

but to enable a soldier to escape with his life if he was cornered by gunmen during an operation. The Army does not allow that it forges press cards although a spokesman did elaborate on the possibilities.

"It is a possibility that in the past someone, in a very misguided moment, produced something like press cards. But obviously he had second thoughts about it and ordered them to be destroyed."

He denied that Army photographic staff in the Army's information services branch had ever visited Dublin in December. When he was asked if an intelligence officer could have visited Dublin at that time, he said: "We cannot comment on that." The information staff, he said, are not using dummy press cards.

Four and a half months ago the Provisional IRA "man" stated that journalists had been collaborating with the Army

Tory leaders failing to attack, Mr Walker says

By Our Political Staff

Mr Peter Walker, the former Conservative minister, has widened the gulf between himself and the new Conservative leadership with a speech attacking the Tory front bench for failing to condemn strongly enough what he calls the massive failures of Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Speaking at Malvern College on Saturday, Mr Walker complained that the Conservative Party had joined in saying that Mr Healey had produced a respectable package of

measures to help to unemployment.

Walker said, the party was trivial and unimportant. Mr Walker, who is a member of the House of Commons, said: "The Tory Party has a task of exposing this as being the worst by far in postwar Britain."

It had been suggested that relations between Mr Walker and Mrs Thatcher were frosty, but the front bench likely to regard his as unfair.

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HOME NEWS

Teachers intend to withhold cover for absent colleagues in protest over staffing reductions

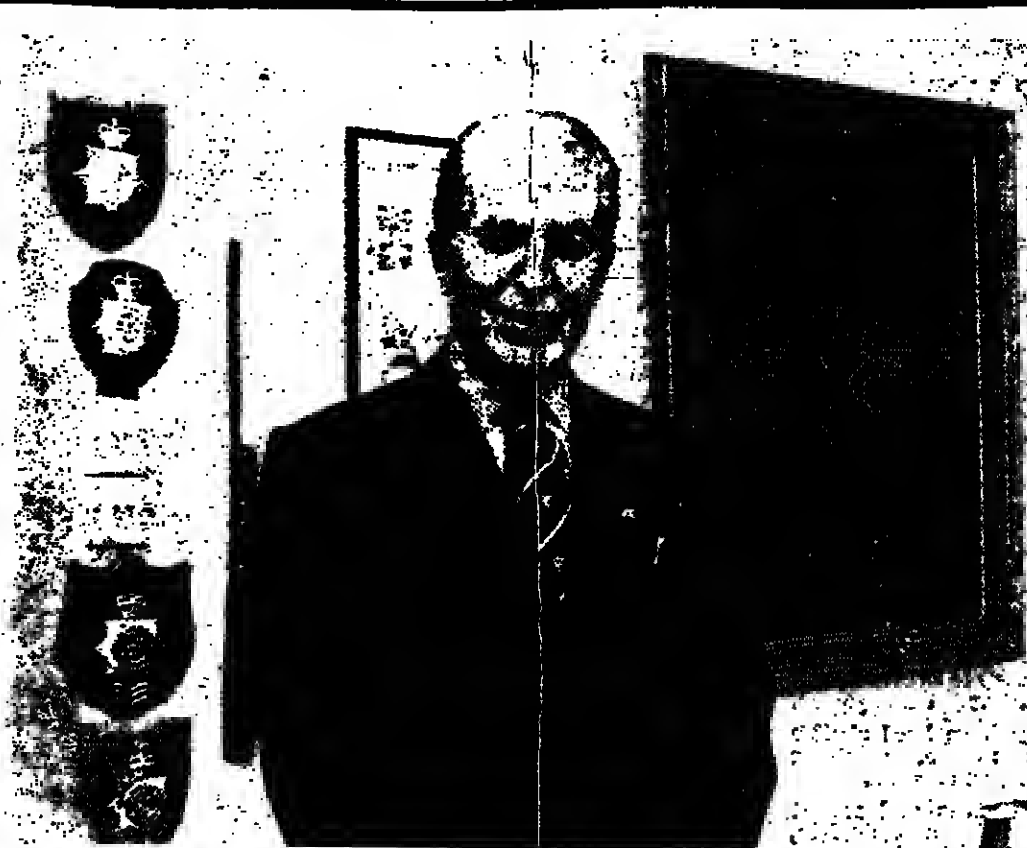
By David...
Leicestershire teachers are to withhold cover for absent colleagues in a protest over staffing reductions. The action is part of a campaign by the Leicestershire Teachers' Association to force the county council to reverse its decision to reduce the number of teachers by 100 in the 1976-77 financial year.

Mr. A. N. Fairbairn, the county's director of education, gave a warning that the teachers' action would upset the arrangements which were made for the 1976-77 financial year. He said that the council was prepared to accept the teachers' demands for a 100 reduction in the number of teachers, but that it was not prepared to accept the teachers' demands for a 100 reduction in the number of pupils.

Mr. Jarvis said the teachers' action would be to withhold cover for absent colleagues. He said that the teachers' action would be to withhold cover for absent colleagues. He said that the teachers' action would be to withhold cover for absent colleagues.

Dock Green police find a new job for Dixon

By Kenneth...
George Dixon is joining the Dock Green police force. He is a former member of the Royal Garrison Theatre and has been a member of the Dock Green police force for many years.



Jack Warner wearing his collar's tie and flanked by "George Dixon" mementoes.

Death toll rises as influenza spreads

By a Staff Reporter...
The influenza epidemic continued to spread last weekend. Related deaths are thought to have risen to 150 last week compared with 79 the previous week. Figures from the Department of Health and Social Security, which will be released this week, probably tomorrow, will show precisely the extent last week of the outbreak.

Labour plan as threat to

By David...
The Labour Party is planning to introduce a new law which would give it the right to demand a referendum on the issue of devolution for Scotland and Wales. The Labour Party is planning to introduce a new law which would give it the right to demand a referendum on the issue of devolution for Scotland and Wales.

Discrimination inquiry at universities sought

By Tim Devlin...
The Equal Opportunities Commission has been asked to investigate whether there is discrimination against women for recruitment and promotion in universities. The Commission has been asked to investigate whether there is discrimination against women for recruitment and promotion in universities.

White-collar strike a threat to gas supplies

By Christopher Thomas...
British Gas will seek a solution to its dispute with 40,000 white-collar workers this week and at the same time try to appease its manual workers, who are directly affected. The dispute is a threat to gas supplies.

Jack Warner wearing his collar's tie and flanked by "George Dixon" mementoes.

He was a member of the Sutton Amateur Dramatic Club when he met Geoff Darnell, and they played the West End clubs as Warner and Darnell. He tried to get into the Second World War but failed; and then Charles Shindell had the idea for the radio programme, *Garrison Theatre*, in which Jack Warner introduced the catchphrase "Mind my bike," which is still remembered. "It was written up outside my tent when I was in Korea in 1951."

Three different varieties of influenza virus are causing the epidemic.

Two are new strains: "English" flu, known to virologists as A/Eng/864/73, first isolated in a school in Leicestershire last November; and "Australia" flu, known as A/Victoria/75, first isolated in New Guinea. The third type circulating is influenza B, the distinct virus that usually causes local outbreaks rather than wide epidemics.

Investigative journalism may involve use of subterfuge, Press Council says

By David...
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By David...
A young woman died and was hurt in a climbing accident at the weekend. The accident occurred while she was climbing a rock face.

Inquiry into hospital plan for Libyan patients

By a Staff Reporter...
A subcommittee of three has been set up by Gyr's Hospital to consider the attitude of the hospital and its medical staff to a proposed arrangement for Libyan subjects to be treated in the hospital's private wing in return for financial support by Libya for the medical school.

Fish fryers call crisis talks on shortages

By Hugh Clayton...
Owners of fish-and-chip shops have called an emergency conference of the entire fish industry for this week in the hope of making a united approach to the Government about threats to supplies. Fish fryers believe that they face the greatest danger because they must grapple with the potato shortage as well as a scarcity of fish.

Appointments Vacant also on page 20

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| FEBRUARY | 18 University of Warwick |
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WEST EUROPE

Alliance of left urged in Portugal

From Michael Knipe
Lisbon, Feb 15

Faced with the prospect of a resounding defeat in the national elections expected this spring, the Portuguese Communist Party has called for an alliance of left-wing political groups to prevent a reactionary victory.

Arguing that no party can expect to win an outright majority, the Communists have called on the Socialist Party to form a pre-election alliance of the Left.

Dr. Alvaro Cunhal, the Communist leader, scornfully dismissed the Socialist plans to fight the election campaign independently. At a press conference last night he said the Socialists had no hope of a victory and it would be a good thing if they agreed publicly and before the election to consider an election pact. The Communist Party, he said, would be ready to establish contacts and an exchange of opinions.

Pointing out that in Sweden the Social Democrats were in power without a majority because of the support of five Communist Party members of Parliament, Dr. Cunhal said the Swedish Communist Party was supporting the Government—in spite of having no participation—to prevent conservatives coming to power.

However, additions were different in Portugal and he wished to make it clear that this situation would not be repeated in the legislative assembly in Lisbon. If the Portuguese Socialists wanted Communist support, they would have to negotiate.

Like the Socialists, the Communist Party wanted the legislative elections to be held as soon as possible but Dr. Cunhal doubted if this would be by April 25 as promised. He said the party would oppose the simultaneous elections for a legislative assembly and presidency as favoured by the centre-left Popular Democrats.

Asked whether, in view of its complaints that its activities were being restricted by the ruling terrorist tactics, the Communist Party would consider the election results valid, Dr. Cunhal said this would depend on circumstances. But, he added, the Communists would contest every constituency.

Warning of the perils of the dangers from the undemocratic Right, Dr. Cunhal said that in order to understand political realities in Portugal it was necessary to realize that the forces of reaction had two wings. One was a white glove wing, the other was a black glove wing. The other was bare but had "pretty sharp fingernails".

East German 'economist' arrested as spy

From Our Correspondent
Berlin, Feb 15

A man, whose name was not disclosed but who was described as an East German agent, has been arrested after the issue of a warrant by the judge of the federal court at Karlsruhe. The alleged spy was said to be a highly qualified economist.

He last worked at Koblenz for the iron and metal industry's union. According to the Rhein-Zeitung, published in the city, he came to West Germany five years ago as a refugee.

The newspaper quoted the man as stating on his arrest last Tuesday that he was a citizen of the German Democratic Republic and acted through political conviction. It suggested that he was assigned to spy on industrial enterprises concerned with armaments.

Six die in Swiss train crash

Yverdon, Switzerland, Feb 15.—Six people were killed and 40 injured, some seriously, when two trains collided yesterday on a single-track stretch of a narrow-gauge railway linking this lakeside town with Sainte-Croix, a mountain town near the French border.—AP.

Gales force trawlers off Iceland to move south

From Ronald Kershaw on board HMS Scylla
Feb 15

Gales today drove the 37 British trawlers fishing off the north-east tip of Iceland 70 miles south to a less boisterous area off Seydisfjordur on the east coast.

The force 10 gales took them away, too, from the highly sensitive area off Langnes which Iceland suddenly declared a new conservation area. The decision to move was taken by the trawler skipper after one of their "meetings" on the radio telephone at which a move to stay off Langnes was defeated on a vote.

It was in that area on Friday that the frigate Diomedes was in collision with the Balder, an Icelandic gunboat, as she went in to protect a trawler from being harassed by the gunboat. The 2,500-ton frigate Scylla, with Captain Arthur Chicksfield in command, joined the Diomedes, the Lowestoft and the fleet auxiliary tanker and

supply ship Olwen to assume control of the naval force off Iceland. HMS Juno yesterday sailed for Rosyth after several weeks' duty off Iceland.

Although the trawlers started fishing off Seydisfjordur there appeared to be no Icelandic gunboat activity in the early part of the day. That the Royal Navy interprets as a reluctance by the Icelandic captains and crews to work on Sunday, rather than a desire to avoid the foul weather.

It may be that Iceland is keeping a "low profile" after the weekend announcement that Mr Callaghan had a new offer. Reykjavik, Feb 15.—Icelandic fishermen yesterday rejected a plea from Mr Hallgronsson, the Prime Minister, and began a strike which could harm the country's economy. Mr Hallgronsson had asked them to delay the strike for a few days for further negotiations with the trawler owners in the dispute over wages.

Baguette goes up
Paris, Feb 15.—The Frenchman's daily bread, the long 250-gramme baguette, went up five centimes to 1 franc (11p) today.

OVERSEAS

Congress move to cut Lockheed loans threatens Rolls-Royce

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Feb 15

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Lebanon still leftis

From Our Correspondent
Beirut, Feb 15

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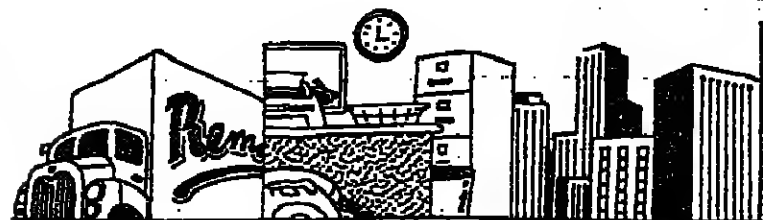
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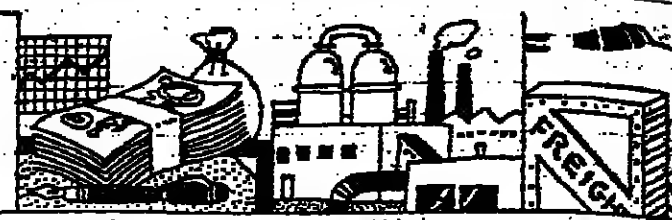
Cross-country

Foster turns down an unexpected offer but Black accepts

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Property

Popularity grows for the Hague

Continental markets are still busy. In the Hague, two transactions by Jones Lang Wootton show the increasing popularity of the Venestraat as a shopping street.

The company has sold the freehold interest in Venestraat 36, a furniture store of 5,300 sq. metres for Credit Foncier; a Dutch property development and investment company has paid more than £1m. The store is let to Meubel Pallets. Almost opposite Jones Lang Wootton has acquired a retail investment for Grandis for £275,000. The shop, of 135 sq. metres, is let to Stuvenga Lederwaren, part of a chain of leatherware stores.

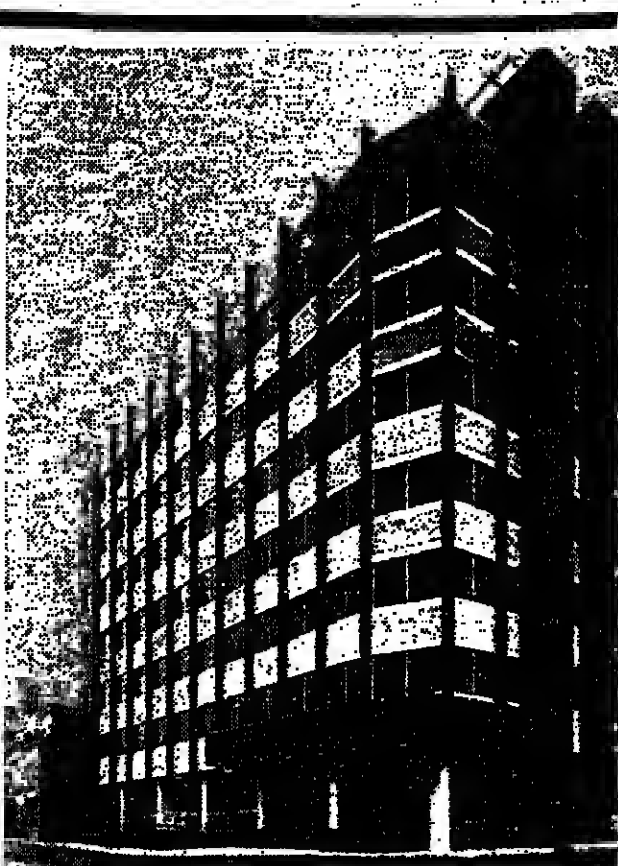
The agents suggest that one main reason for the improvement of that part of The Hague as a high-quality shopping centre is the development of the 54m Pasadenia scheme by Hurst End, now nearing completion. It comprises 5,000 sq. metres of shops and already is substantially let.

One, in the Boulevard Leopold III, Brussels, the main airport motorway, is due for completion in May and will provide 13,720 sq. metres in two six-floor blocks joined by a further block with common services. The building is opposite Nato headquarters.

Negotiations for part of the building are well advanced, according to Richard Ellis, who are project managers and letting agents for both schemes. The other scheme is in Antwerp, on a site with frontages on the Frankrijke and Rubenslaan. The building contains 5,295 sq. metres in two identical nine-storey blocks; rent is 2,950 Belgian francs (537) a sq. metre.

Last week in Adelaide, Australia a new office scheme by Norwich Union Insurance was opened by Mr. Donald Dunstan, the Premier of South Australia. The development, the Norwich Centre, consists of two low-rise buildings with a lettable area of 70,000 sq. ft. in a landscaped setting on the corner of Brougham Place and King William Road. Part is being occupied by Norwich Union's Adelaide branch. Other occupants include Stephenson and Turner, who designed the building. Letting is through Collier Duncan and Cook.

Edward Erdman and Co. of London, has been appointed sole European letting agent for the Eaton shopping centre in Toronto. The scheme, large blocks of 10,000 sq. ft. each, even by Canadian standards,



A view of Stafford House, Aldershot.

will cover about 141 acres and provide a department store for Eaton of more than a million sq. ft., more than 300 shops and 1,250,000 sq. ft. of offices, 300,000 sq. ft. for Eaton's headquarters.

The first phase of the scheme, costing about £100m, is to be ready by spring, 1977, and a final phase possibly costing another £100m, by 1980. Cadillac Fairview Corporation will have a 60 per cent interest, with the remaining 40 per cent shared by the Toronto-Dominion Bank and the T Eaton Co. Construction is well advanced on the £2.5m final phase of the Hurley central area shopping scheme, by the Hammett Group in conjunction with the local authority. Completion is expected by autumn. This phase is an extension of the existing scheme and will provide new large stores for Woolworth's and Marks, both of whom will be moving from elsewhere in the town. There will be eight other shops and an 18,500 sq. ft. office block.

Earlier parts of the scheme are fully let, providing more than 60 shops and stores, new markets and car parking. The scheme covers about eight acres bounded by St James Street, Curzon Street, Bankfield and Hall Street. Letting of the final phase is through Donaldson's Bradford office.

A combined office and warehouse development in Caversham Road, Reading, is due for completion next month. It is by McKay Securities, with designs by the Farrell Grimshaw Partnership. The buildings, on a 21-acre site, provide 20,000 sq. ft. of offices in two blocks of 10,000 sq. ft. each, one beside the river, and

37,500 sq. ft. of warehousing. The site was once occupied by the Excel Bowling Centre, but had been derelict for some years. A rent of £150,000 a year with three-year reviews is being asked for the whole complex. Letting is through A. C. Frost and Co. of Windsor.

Stafford House, in Station Road, Aldershot, has just been completed, near the town centre redevelopment scheme to provide pedestrian shopping, a multi-storey car park and more offices. Designed by Lister Drew and Associates, it has 26,000 sq. ft. of air-conditioned space on ground and six upper floors. A rent of £120,000 a year is being asked by Akron Properties, the developers, whose agents are Hillier Parker May and Daw.

Among the latest restored historic London houses is Wentworth House, 5 St James's Square. The scheme is by Monopoly Investments, who own a long leasehold from the Byng family, who acquired the original building in 1711. The house was substantially rebuilt in 1748 except for the stone front and the third floor, which were added in 1854.

The building has been recommended for a grade one listing. In its present form it could provide 12,122 sq. ft. of offices, a use still subject to an office development permit, and 7,676 sq. ft. of residential space, including an unusually luxurious penthouse. Architects were Pring White and Partners and the main contractors, Dove Brothers.

The agents are Knight, Frank and Rutley, and Herring, Son and Daw.

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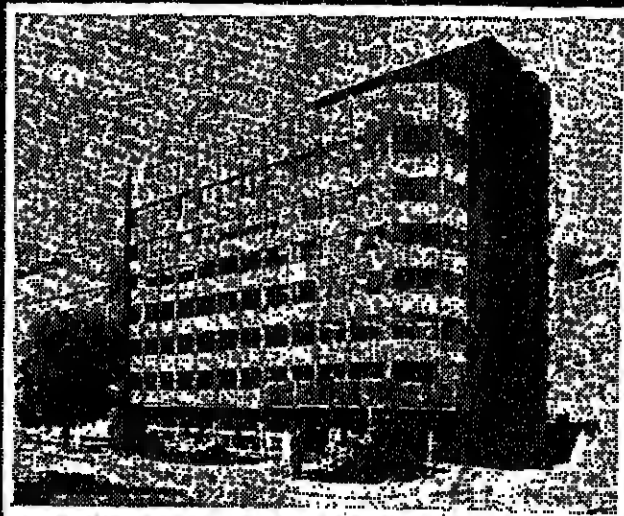
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n weeks rather than months Dr Neto will have recognition that is the legitimate successor government. Portugal in Angola. Already the People's Republic of Angola is a member of the Organisation of African Unity by virtue of full Africanity by virtue of full Africanity support which was lacking a month ago at the summit meeting in Addis Ababa. Zambia and air will have to accept the inevitable, abandon their investments in the other movements, and get the Banguela railway reopened. The United Nations will not be asked to admit Angola under MPLA control. There will be a line to be drawn in the eastern countries, holding off—decided they suffer for lack of servers in Luanda now. The defeat by massive Russian armour and Cuban manpower is a discreditable, and to fight for any length of time against a black government—however ardent—makes little sense in arid terms.

This is the situation and it calls for two immediate decisions, one by South Africa and one by Rhodesia. South Africa is to decide whether to withdraw from its border zone in Angola to behind its own frontiers in South West Africa, or be in the role of invaders fighting on foreign soil whose ownership is internationally recognized. The Rhodesian Government has to decide, within a few days, whether to make a last-minute but painful offer to keep Mr Nkomu discussing a peaceful settlement before he throws in his lot with the militants preparing to take the country by force with Russian and Chinese backing.

South Africa is considering some deal with the MPLA. Possibly Dr Neto would make concessions to South Africa that would secure a withdrawal and deprive his Cuban and Russian allies of any excuse to stay militarily in Angola. If South Africa agrees to the MPLA forces before withdrawing, the Russians will have an excuse to remain as a safeguard against "imperialist aggression", and their presence for that purpose might soon become confused with a new role to assist Swapo, the Namibian guerrilla organization, to assert its UN-given rights in the territory under UN auspices.

By withdrawing South Africa will not escape a new Swapo attack, and the Cubans may refuse to leave Angola (can Dr Neto make them?). In any case, South Africa's withdrawal, leaving Unkomo and the refugee camps to their fate, will profoundly change loyalties in Ovamboland and elsewhere. Mr Mfundi

Denkash and Mr Clerides to meet tomorrow in Vienna yet another round of talks between the two Cypriot communities. This will in fact be the first since the collapse of the Geneva Conference, eighteen months ago, when Turkey took military action to secure two thirds of the island's territory.

Throughout those eighteen months the situation in Cyprus changed depressingly little. Turkey was able to secure her control of virtually the whole Turkish Cypriot population, and in 1974 this zone was proclaimed a "Turkish Federated State of Cyprus" under Mr Denkash's presidency. In theory, this was a concession, but in fact he federated one day with a responding Greek Cypriot, to form a federal Cypriot Republic. In practice the state question is federated, if not, with mainland Turkey. Its Turkish currency, sets its clocks by Turkish time, and even a Turkish postal address.

In this zone remain some ten thousand Greek Cypriots under military arrest. Last June, in return for Mr Clerides's agreement to transfer of the last nine thousand Turkish Cypriots from the north, Mr Denkash insisted that no more of these Greeks would be expelled from the south, that they would be afforded a normal existence including freedom of movement, and that Greek Cypriots, doctors and teachers, would have regular access to the north. This promise has been amply dishonoured.

The southern three fifths of the island, cut off from its most fertile and formerly most prosperous region, live the rest of the Turkish Cypriot four fifths of the

population, of whom something like one third are refugees from the north—the figure is usually given as 200,000 people, although this is disputed by the Turks. Of these some 18,000 are now spending their second winter under canvas. Most are living with friends or relatives in overcrowded conditions—often separated from their able-bodied menfolk who have had to go abroad in search of work.

The situation of the Turkish Cypriots in the north is by most accounts hardly better. Reports speak of shortages, unemployment, resentment at unfulfilled promises, and ill feeling between Turkish Cypriots and immigrant workers introduced from the mainland—ostensibly to do jobs which Turkish Cypriots are unable or unwilling to undertake but more plausibly to increase the population and so strengthen the Turkish fact accompli.

In very strong reasons to wish that the inter-communal talks should lead swiftly to a settlement which would permit the resumption of some kind of normality. That cannot of course mean a return to the status quo of July, 1974, or even to that of 1960. The Greek Cypriots are well aware of that. Mr Clerides has been hinting for some time that he knows the only conceivable successful outcome of negotiations is a bi-zonal federation, even if he is understandably unwilling to concede this formally at the outset when Mr Denkash is still ruling out concessions of any kind from his side.

Turkish Cypriots often argue that a settlement could be reached with Mr Clerides on his own, but is made impossible by Archbishop Makarios. Their distrust of the Archbishop is certainly genuine, as is their

North Star we have all been doing our political dead reckoning by has suddenly been crossed out by the Westminster policy of "paralysis of cardinal importance" and it is dumbfounding that we can so far continue to do their business as though we had not been alerted. For the ideal orientations that have been through a life time are suddenly, publicly discarded by two of the strongest minds in the Labour Government.

The Labour Government is what run-of-the-mill Labour clans in and out of office have by word and deed through the century: that there is no such thing as a free lunch, that one does raise prices and contribute to inflation, and that the bread growth of the state is on the nation's resources.

I soon deny my first impression. Desmond May, Thatcher called Shadow Cabinet to a specialing on Friday to take new things before the public expenditure White Paper appears next Friday.

Mr. May, Chancellor of the exchequer, made his *ex cathedra* contribution to the new, or publicly thinking last Friday. He had mind not only the week's proposed cuts in public expenditure but the Budget he prepares for 1966 but also the need to persuade the TUC to agree with a limit for another year.

He made an offer that must be presented from any Chancellor during the months he is supposed to be in nurbad thinking on a Budget. "The experience of working men has shown that the working man has a bitterer conscience than their of their money wages be drastically reduced not only rising prices but also by rising wages. A lower pay limit next year means a smaller deduction from the wage packet in the next year than the TUC approach to the Government to raise their pay limit again this year. I

From Lord Gore-Booth
Sir, For a week or more the human tragedy of young British men slaughtered in the Congo has distracted me from the immense gravity of the question which is happening now in Africa. Just as the last imperial power is out of Africa, the fate of a large African country is decided not by its inhabitants, nor by Africans, but by arms furnished by Russian power and by operations and by operations executed by the armed forces of a Latin American power (Cuba). What has been called by President Kameud the "Soviet-Cuban victory" presents a threat to African freedom before the eyes of the United Nations of internal stability. And China has yet to take an attitude which could either confirm or further disturb the situation.

As long ago as last December Lord Caredon wrote in your columns a plea for reference to the United Nations. There was no response. The difficulty for any one nation or for African nations together making this reference is not hard to understand. Nor can the UN be expected to invent or enforce an immediate solution. But surely, despite this, the UN must take active cognizance of these overwhelming events. Otherwise we shall have created the second world political organization in history to little or no purpose.

If your governments still cannot bring themselves even now to dare an indicative, surely it is time for the Secretary-General to intervene under Article 99 of the Charter which allows him to "bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion threatens the maintenance of international peace and security".

I am, Sir, yours, etc.,
GORE-BOOTH,
House of Lords,
February 15.

From Mr. Dulah Koroms
to Sir, in your leading article today
(February 10), "The Foreign En-
listment Act," you referred to the
"Alabama" and "men who were
in the United States" as "men whose
reasons of public policy could be
shown," it would be capricious to
revoke the Act now. Similarly, in
your leading article of January 29,
"Mercenaries Bound for America,"
you stated that "it is an abuse
of power to withdraw the passports
of the mercenaries unless it could
be shown to be prejudicial to the
vital interest of the realm. Thus,
it is possible to dispense a consistent
policy of non-interference towards
fighting in Angola."

However, with regard to the "Alabama", you did not state that at the conclusion of the American Civil War, Britain was held negligent in letting the "Alabama" be used as a "warship" by the Confederate army, and by the Award of the Geneva Arbitral Tribunal, the United States was awarded the sum of \$15,500,000 in reparation for damages Britain was held to have caused her. So, whether the Acts of the "Alabama" were reviewed by the Government of responsibility for the activities of British mercenaries in Angola.

Your position on the withdrawal of the mercenaries' passports should be contrasted with that of Belgium and France during the Civil War in the Congo. In the case of the Congo, the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution on February 21, 1961, urging Member States to take measures "... for the immediate withdrawal and evacuation from the Congo of all Belgian and other military and paramilitary personnel and mercenaries". Subsequent resolution authorised for this purpose the use of a requisite measure of

Thus, although the United Kingdom lacks legislation banning recruitment of its nationals to fight in a foreign war, the Government nevertheless could be held responsible for the activities of its nationals in such wars and it therefore cannot be capricious to prevent its nationals from activities in such wars, if it decides to.

Ours faithfully,
OLAV G. KOROM,
D Drylands Road, N8,
Tel: 289-10

from Mr Preben Müller
himself. Would you allow a few com-
ments in an overseas reader of *The*
Times concerning the letter of the
Council for the Advancement of
Understanding (*The Times*, February 5).
I was appalled to learn that
most of the anti-Israel letters sent
to *The Times* are not genuine
readers' letters, but part of an
organized campaign by CAABU,
under its own administration,
and the foreknowledge of all such letters,
the unpublished ones included.
Moreover, it appears that even some
Arab embassies and the PLO par-
take in this complicit. There is no
go as far suggestion that
CAABU actually drafts these letters,
being clear that they have a
vested interest in the publication of
letters, which so to speak, belong
to others.
I find it disturbing that intelligent
people should believe that the
main test be served by blindly sub-
scribing to the Arab folly and
oberration of the pursuit of the
destruction of Israel and the Jewish
people.
You have raised an important
question. Now that it is known that
the so-called "readers' letters" are
centrally organized with a view to
giving a misleading impression that
they are indeed representative of a
cross section of readers' reactions
current events, should *The Times*
publish any other paper knowingly
acquiesce in such a manipulation?
Yours sincerely,
PREBEN MÜLLER, 32,
Lester Sogade St.,
1000 Copenhagen O,
Denmark.

From Mr Anthony Richards
Sir, About this time in every Parli-
ament some considerable number of
Members vote for an article entitled "Have
the Liberals a future?" The
theme is usually well-worn; the
Liberals have no prospects and
no policies. Ronald Butt's article (Feb-
ruary 12) is no exception.

Since Mr Butt quotes so eagerly
from the *Times* I thought to which it
was my pleasant task to draft, may
I remind him of some of the things
that were said about Liberal policies
at the time, not least by his own
newspaper? "Never let it be said
that the Liberal Party has no policy,"
said the *Times*. "The *Times* said it
and it went on: "It is already certain
that the Liberal policy at the next
Election will be preferable to that of
the Labour Party, that it will be worked
out in a more satisfactory way and
more completely relate to the basic
needs of Britain in the seventies."

Those policies still exist. They
have not been discarded in the wake
of electoral defeat or quietly fur-
nished to the Labour Party in the
leadership as has happened in an-
other Party. Mr Butt claims that
the Conservatives now stand for vir-
tually everything the Liberals want.
That is nothing new either. At this

of the electorate recognise this and
as such they are very ahead of the
politicians.

Secondly, a commitment to an in-
comes policy in the present econ-
omic climate. Surely this was and
a more civilized alternative to ram-
pant inflation and two million un-
employed? The Social Contract, that
painful and cynical device intro-
duced by the Labour
Government, and played to a gul-
lible electorate was no alternative.
When the Conservatives shed their
incomes policy after February
1974, and pranced naked into the
Conservative Party, they were
deservedly so. Two thirds of the
electorate have consistently sup-
ported an incomes policy and once
again they were way ahead of the
politicians.

Lastly, a commitment to the re-
moval of barriers, whether at work,
in the Community, in Europe and
beyond. Politically their feet are
in both camps because they recog-
nize the need to break down the
"us" syndrome. Industrial coopera-
tion to the Liberals is not just
window-dressing, for with a foot in
each camp but without a commit-
ment to either they can sense this
reality and not just a forlorn
hope.

For far too long now the electorate have witnessed the sacrifice of principles, policies and even the national interest for the survival of the party and the unity of the Labour Party. We have also seen a pathetically weak Conservative opposition under Mrs Thatcher breed a lack of commitment in any policy, relevant to the desperately serious events of this past long year.

Liberals have shown a commitment to clear and consistent policies, and their leader has shown great courage, tempered with sensitivity, in the face of tragic setbacks. So, in that respect, I find they have plenty to offer.

Yours faithfully,
H. M. S. NEILL,
Scruton House,
Evercrech,
Somerset.
February 13.

From Mr. Peter Kerr

From Mr. H. M. S.Neill
Sir, After reading Ronald Butt's article (February 12) it is clear that as a Liberal just recently deserted from the Conservative ranks at a time when Labour is in power I must suffer from some political ailment. Worse than joined hands for their policies rather than their personalities. As an erring member of the electorate, may I state why I felt they still had something to offer?
First a commitment to electoral reform. The absurdity of the present system is clear to those who have the health of parliamentary democracy at heart rather than the health of one or two parties.
Secondly, When the people see themselves justly represented then the signs of unrepresentative government such as separatism, political strikes, tax revolts and violent

Sir, Ronald Butt answered his question "Is there a political future for the Liberals?" in the negative. In so doing he has failed to understand that the Liberal party at the present time is in an extraordinarily strong tactical position. If the Tories win the next election then on past form one can expect a renewed Liberal upsurge at subsequent by-elections.
More interesting will be the situation if the Tories lose the next election. It is more likely that the sheer efficiency of this Labour government; thousands of Conservative voters will then come to realize that it is no use flogging a dead horse and will desert to the Liberal party.
Yours faithfully,
ROGER KARN,
3 Portugal Street,
Cambridge.

From Mr G. J. Barr, and Mr P. A. Driver

Sir, Mr Semmence's letter on February 11, proposes the utilization of labour-intensively farmed mussels as feedstuffs for carp-intensive fish farming. Inevitably some form of processing or preservation would be required, and the water feedstuffs, even if the mussel could be fed direct in fin fish it would result in very expensive protein.

Mussel production of 500 tons an acre is suggestive of the intensive method of cultivation such as is practised in northern Spain where mussels are grown on racks and harvested from there. The availability of suitable sites for raft culture with good conditions for growth in Britain is limited and can conflict with other marine uses. Rafts and ropes themselves are very expensive items.

I am interested to note that none of your correspondents has so far referred to any of the unusual difficulties which at present face fish farmers. The siting of fish farming structures in the sea requires consent from the Crown Estate Commissioners, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,

local authority planning departments, and the various bodies used in aquaculture, unlike farm buildings, require planning permission and are not de-rated. There are grants payable to farmers, and grants for the construction of fishing boats, but no grants for fish farming (apart from very limited grants and loans to the fisherman (the parties); the risk is to fish and to navigate in the sea is jealously guarded; this makes it extremely difficult to obtain a 'Several Order' or a 'Crown lease'; furthermore Several Orders afford no protection to fish held above the seabed or on the seages.

It is for these reasons that those interested in supplementing our fish supplies with home-farmed marine fish and shellfish are pressing the Government for new legislation which will assist this type of development.

Yours sincerely,
G. J. BARR,
Clerk and Superintendent,
P. A. DRIVER,
Senior Scientific Officer,
Lancashire and Western Sea Fisheries Joint Committee,
University of Lancaster,
Bailrigg, Lancaster.
February 12.

From Dr T. C. Dann
Sir, When considering the cost of educating overseas students in Britain, it should be remembered that they use resources other than the purely academic. The costs to the State of their use of the National Health Service is considerable. Not only do they often have health problems due to adjustment to a different diet and climate, but they have more psychiatric problems than British students because of the different work patterns and particularly because of the different language here. Recently this latter has become particularly noticeable, and I have found that the standard of ordinary conversational English of too many of the overseas students is inadequate; how they are supposed to cope with a university course is beyond me, but although I do my best to support them, too many fall by the wayside. Apart from this, some of their illnesses require considerable expense in diagnosis: in the past month I have had three patients with different anemias which are not found in British patients, which have required expert haematological advice to diagnose, and one of them had to be admitted to hospital for several days before the diagnosis could be completed. Not only do the students themselves use the NHS, but also they may bring their wives and even children. They, too, tend to use the NHS more than the families of British students do. There is more than the academic phase to be made out for charging overseas students a realistic fee.

Yours sincerely,
T. C. DANN,
Medical Officer,
University of Warwick,
Coventry,
Warwickshire,
February 11.

From the Archdeacon of Macclesfield
Sir, Mr Philip Howard's interesting article on consensus makes no reference to the long ecclesiastical use of the word to describe the common mind of ecclesiastical authorities. For example, at the Council of Trent, Pius IV stressed that he "wished to define only that which had been decided by the constant consent of the Church Fathers". (Cited by Hans Kung, *Structures of the Church*, London, 1965, p. 33).

In modern ecumenical writings there is a tendency to criticize the pioneers of the Faith and Order movement for having over-emphasized the possibility of achieving doctrinal "consensus" between Christian confessions through neglecting "the disagreements within the agreements"; but this charge is hardly supported by such a report on "The World Council of Churches in God's Design" of the first assembly of the World Council of Churches, Amsterdam, 1948.

Recent interchurch documents such as the "Agreed Statements" on Eucharistic doctrine and the ministry produced by the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission claimed to do more than express the theological "middle ground". The members of the Commission wrote that they were convinced that they had reached agreement on essential points of doctrine and that "nothing essential has been omitted". In other words "consensus" in the field of Christian doctrine need not involve compromise of principle. Is there or is there not a parallel in the political field?

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS H. HOUSER,
Gawsworth Rectory,
Macclesfield.

From Sir Peter Kirk, Conservative MP for Saffron Walden

Sir, At this very early stage in the national debate over direct elections to the House of Commons, I am certainly welcome any intelligent contribution to the discussion, as a means of directing public attention to the problems we are obliged to solve before such elections can take place.

Professor Richard Rose's recent article was extremely valuable, so high is his reputation in these matters. Nevertheless I must take issue with him over one point. With regard to the House of Commons, "the British House of Commons" will remain the first choice of aspiring politicians?". To my certain knowledge, although no published commitments have so far been made by the Conservative Party, the E.C. of Brandt's declared intention at the European Movement Congress in Brussels to stand for the European Parliament, a good many Members of the House of Commons are likely to stand at direct elections and by no means all of them are as old, weary, maledapt, or unsuccessful as Professor Rose would have us suppose.

I would I be inclined to regard success in the present House of Commons as the sole index as to whether a candidate would serve his electors and his' party well as a Member of the European Parliament.

We can all agree on the importance of a United Kingdom representation of high quality, but exactly which qualities are required is the question our party organization would be best advised to consider.

Yours faithfully,
PETER KIRK,
House of Commons.

Sir, I was sad to read the letter from Lord Duncan-Sandys (February 5) repeating the assertion that the Government had no intention of introducing a "What-ever may be the case for proportional representation" in direct elections to the European Parliament, "the legislative and organizational problems involved rule out the adoption between now and 1978".

I find it utterly beyond belief that a governmental machine which is capable of introducing value-added tax and of expelling Irish students from the universities, which is considered capable enough to implement the Community Land Act and the nationalization of the aircraft and shipping industries, should somehow be incapable of setting up a system of proportional representation in two years' time. When it was considered politic in Northern Ireland, elections by the single transferable vote were introduced quite easily. Some new arrangements for the constituency system and electoral franchise will in any case be needed for the European election; does Lord Duncan-Sandys really believe that the added problem of counting votes on a different basis could defeat the entire Civil Service?

As I would understand it what bides behind this flimsy argument on administrative inconvenience is the reluctance of the Labour Government to go the way on the principle of proportionality, for fear that this will open election to the Scottish and Welsh Estates and perhaps even to the continuation of the existing system for national and local elections. Neither the Government nor such eminent pro-European as Lord Duncan-Sandys yet seems to have appreciated the absurdity of electing a majority to an election for the European Parliament in 1978 under our present electoral system might produce. It is quite possible, for instance, that the might win 57-38 per cent of the Scottish vote, 37-38 per cent of the Scottish vote; that the Liberal Party might receive some 15-20 per cent of the national vote (a higher percentage than its sister party in the House of Commons of the Community), and no seats at all; and that the imbalance between votes received and seats won for the Conservative and Labour parties would be even more widely than in February, 1974.

In such an event, Britain's democratic credentials would look rather tarnished to our Community partners, and the prestige of our European MPs would inevitably be low. It is worth incurring a moderate amount of administrative inconvenience to avoid such a democratic absurdity.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM WALLACE,
79 Claude Road,
Charltonville,
Manchester.
February 9.

From Mr William Few
Sir, I refer to two articles in *The Times* on February 10. The first one concerns the reduction in the labour force of British Rail and the second the creation of the *Contrans* Rail Corporation (CON-RAIL) in the USA. I give you these startling facts:
British Rail—11,500 miles of track and 230,000 employees.
CONRAIL (proposed) — 20,000 miles of track and 80,000 employees.
Draw your own conclusions!
Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM FEW.
2 Mayfield Avenue,
Chiswick, W4.
February 10.

From Mr J. E. Young
Sir, Those of the National Theatre's
mailing list subscribers who do not
take *The Times* might be a little
aggrieved to hear that cogent and
well reasoned justification of the
radical new pricing structure has
been denied them. Why were these
arguments not included in an explana-
tory note with the mailing to
subscribers?
Yours faithfully,
J. B. YOUNG,
11 Eton Place, NW3.
February 11.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Canada's mineral producers wait anxiously for the upturn

The Canadian mining industry is keeping its fingers crossed that the long-awaited economic recovery will take place this year. Only then will commodity prices move back to levels which assure producers a reasonable profit.

The recovery failed to make its expected appearance in the latter half of 1975, and many industry experts do not see a rising demand for metals until mid-1976. Whatever happens, mining companies do not want a repeat of last year's performance. In fact, the industry would prefer to write 1975 off the calendar.

Caught between the slowdown in world economic growth and inter-governmental squabbles over taxation revenue, the companies reported some of the worst financial results in years. Profits of most companies fell by at least 50 per cent and dividends were slashed, despite a record value of output.

But volumes shipped, particularly of copper, iron and nickel, fell drastically. Price increases took up some of the slack but the mining industry received a credit boost in December when the election of a Social Credit government in British Columbia. Premier Bill Bennett announced that the province's royalty tax would be changed from a production-based one to a royalty on profits.

Under the new Democratic Party government, some mining companies found that their tax payments went above profits earned. Exploration for metals in BC had ground to a halt, but the companies are now optimistic about a revival of the industry.

Noranda Mines has a few copper sites which it plans to follow up on an exploratory basis. Bethlehem Copper and Cominco hope to go ahead with their joint development of the Valley Copper orebody and Hudson Bay Mining and Smel-

ting plan to reconsider opening a large copper property in the province.

However, production will also be influenced by copper prices, which have been slow to get off the ground. In northern Quebec most of the copper mines were shut down in 1975, and no

Mining

reopenings have been announced. Some other mines owned by Anglo American and Noranda remain closed.

Mineral companies entered 1976 with some hope that other tax squabbles would be resolved. Manitoba and Ontario eased up on their mining tax legislation during the past year, and the Federal government announced a 25 per cent resource allowance to secure tax payments for those companies engaged in active exploration. Quebec, how-

ever, went the other way by bringing in a super-royalty tax on profits.

Wage and price guidelines are another headache this year. Because most mining companies are export-based, the regulations concerning the government's proposed export tax are awaited with trepidation and as world prices rise the industry may be unable to take advantage of the increase to help their cash-flow.

There is also the danger of a black market developing as the spread widens between international and domestic prices. However, Mr Doole Macdonald, the finance minister, announced last week that the government was reconsidering the structure of the tax, although most companies are about their cash-flow in 1976.

Stocks are high and some analysts predict a round of price-discounting as demand gets moving. International Nickel has already announced

that it will guarantee prices in 1976 to customers who maintain steady orders.

The fluctuating gold price is causing concern, though gold mine operators are optimistic about better prices later in the year.

Sturgeon River Mines has two properties prepared in Northern Ontario and Quebec. In Quebec, the mine has been flooded, and financing arrangements withdrawn. The management estimates that gold will have to rise to US\$150 per ounce from the current level of around \$130 to allow profitable production.

The one bright spot on the Canadian metal mining scene, according to industry experts, is uranium, which rose to \$24.7 a pound in 1975 and analysts estimate a further increase to \$35. Both Rio Algom and Denison mines are expanding their properties at Elliot Lake, Ontario.

Charlotte North

Two good years ahead but then a slowing of growth seen for zinc

Commodities

Two good years ahead and a rise in consumption this year of about 22 per cent, and a further rise of 19 per cent in 1977, is forecast for the zinc industry by the Commodities Research Unit.

But thereafter CRU foresees the long-term prospects as less bright with lower growth in the future than in the past and a continuation of very sharp swings between boom and recession.

The forecasts are made in two reports just published by CRU: one a long-term analysis, the other covering the next 10 years and the other a short-term study of the zinc market's likely behaviour over the next two years as world economic recovery gathers pace.

In its short term report CRU points out that in spite of the strong recovery in demand producers will still be operating at only about 75 per cent of capacity this year in an attempt to run down stock levels. Not until 1977 will full capacity working be restored, although it will come much earlier in the United States than in 1976. However, the pace of the recovery is such that zinc could once more be in very short supply by the end of next year.

The unit forecasts that the zinc producers will manage to hold the current price levels and the London Metal Exchange price should start to rise soon and draw closer to the European producer price. But the producers have been suffering from severe cost pressures and CRU expects to see a producer price rise in the spring, probably led from the United States, with more rises later in the year.

It is pointed out that very large rises in free market zinc prices are possible in late 1977 if the current excess demand materializes.

But in its long-term report the unit points out that zinc's competitive position against aluminium and the plastics has deteriorated sharply and this will seriously dent growth in the distorting market. Thus even after allowing for faster growth from galvanizing, CRU expects the long-term rate of

Total imports of zinc increased to 24,096 tons in December, a rise of 50 per cent over November. For the year as a whole, imports of zinc fell by 1.7 per cent to 192,225 tons.

Imports by country of the Canadian figure were nearly 105 per cent from Australia by 23.6 per cent, imports from West Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Finland were down by 3, 26.8 and 40.3 per cent respectively.

Doubts about \$2 rubber price

A prediction by Abdullah Ayub, the Malaysian Treasury Secretary-General, that the rubber price could reach \$2 a kilo in the future is regarded with scepticism by traders, says Lewis & Peat in their market report.

The report says that traders are generally following the gradual rise around the current level of \$1.50 a kilo, but they are not sure that the price will be bridged in the near future.

Some sources said that the price of rubber is being held back by the fact that the rubber production in the Far East is still low. It is considered to be low usual for the time of the year. Under current conditions level of consumption in the future is not expected to support a 200 per cent rise in the price of rubber.

Regarding the effect of the rubber market on the rubber price, traders said that the rubber price is too thin to permit speculative trading.

Wallace Ja Commodities

Euromarkets

The new issue boom has moved into lower gear after straining in overdrive for so much of January, but there can still be few questions about the underlying strength of the Euromarket.

During January, when just over \$2,000m of issues were launched, it was clear that the primary market was surging ahead at the expense of the secondary market. Prices, although generally improving, tended to move upwards only slowly and dealers reported periods of very thin trading.

More recently, the new issue momentum has slowed, but this has merely transferred the emphasis more in the direction of the secondary market, where prices have been moving steadily ahead.

Apart from the obvious problems of indigestion in a market saturated with new issues, it would appear that short-term currency considerations have played a role in the reduced dollar issue activity — although there are reports of a 12-year issue being planned for Oslo at 91 per cent, which would represent a

heartening extension of maturities, hitherto tending to stick at the 10-year barrier.

Emphasizing the currency factor, Deutsche mark issues saw a noticeable gain from the feelings that the currency will be revalued shortly. Taking advantage of the favourable climate, several issues have come to the market including a DM100m issue for New Zealand, one for DM50m by Hitachi Shipbuilding, one for DM100m from the Asian Development Bank and one from Malmo for DM50m.

By the same token there was some uncertainty about the pricing of a 100m franc issue at 91 per cent for the French government-backed Caisse Centrale de Coopération Economique.

Survey of 1975 bank credits and bond issues

A comprehensive new survey of the Euromarkets last year, called "Euromarkets Annually—1975" has been produced by the London-based William Ellington. The 192-page publication describes in detail last year's medium-term Euro-currency bank credits and international bond issues.

Christopher Wilkins

Weekly list of fixed interest stocks

Stock	Price	Yield	Stock	Price	Yield
Albion 7 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 8 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 9 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 10 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 11 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 12 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 13 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 14 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 15 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 16 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 17 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 18 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 19 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 20 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 21 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 22 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 23 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 24 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 25 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 26 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 27 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 28 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 29 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 30 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 31 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 32 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 33 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 34 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 35 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 36 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 37 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 38 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 39 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 40 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 41 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 42 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 43 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 44 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 45 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 46 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 47 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 48 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 49 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 50 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 51 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 52 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 53 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 54 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 55 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 56 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 57 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 58 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 59 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 60 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 61 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 62 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 63 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 64 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 65 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 66 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 67 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 68 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 69 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 70 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 71 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 72 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 73 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 74 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 75 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 76 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 77 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 78 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 79 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 80 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 81 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 82 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 83 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 84 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 85 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 86 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 87 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 88 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 89 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 90 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 91 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 92 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 93 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 94 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 95 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 96 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 97 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 98 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 99 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2
Albion 100 1/2	55 1/2	5 1/2	Midland Bank 10 1/2	77 1/2	7 1/2

Delny loss deepens in second half

Packaging products group Delny went deeper into the red in the year to September 28.

Reflecting the tough going in the industry, turnover dropped from £3.7m to £3.3m, and a first half loss of £98,000 swelled to £436,000 for the year. In 1973 74 there were pre-tax profits of £13,000.

But after a tax credit of £172,000 against debt of £80,000, net losses were only £264,000 compared with profits of £58,000. The loss a share was 18.97p against earnings of 4.025p, and the dividend is passed. The year before there was a single final dividend of 1.85p gross.

More share prices

The following will be added to The London and Regional Share Price List tomorrow and will be published daily in Business News:

Commercial and Industrial: Deason (Holdings).

Bank Base Rates

Barclays Bank	9 1/2
First London Sec	9 1/2
C. Hoare & Co	9 1/2
Lloyds Bank	9 1/2
Midland Bank	9 1/2
Nat Westminster	9 1/2
Rossminster ACC's	9 1/2
Shenley Trust	11 1/2
Williams & Glyn's	9 1/2

* 7-day deposits on sums of \$10,000 and under, 6 1/2 per cent, over \$25,000, 6 1/2 per cent.

M. J. H. NIGHTINGALE & CO LIMITED

62-63 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8HP Tel: 01-638 8651

Capitalisation Company Price Change Dividend Yield P/E

850 Armitage & Rhodes 34 -3.0 8.8 9.0

1,382 Deborah Services 104 -7.5 7.2 5.5

5,016 Henry Sykes 147 -4.9 3.4 9.8

3,134 Twinkl Ord 22 -1.0 9.2 5.4

1,802 Twinkl 12 66 -1.0 18.2

01-236-7831

Capitalization and week's change

5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

* Dividend. * Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected price. d Interim payment passed. e Price at suspension. f Dividend and dividend include a special payment. g Bid for company. h Pre-war figures. i Forecast earnings. j Capital distribution. k Ex rights. l Ex scrip or share split. m Pay. n Price. o Awarded lot. p Interest.

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES
The Times Share Indices for 23.02.76 (base
date June 2, 1964 original base date June 2,
1963) —

	Interest	Div	Yield	Price
The Times Indus-	107.00	5.21	10.10	-1.51
trial share in Tex	104.00	5.00	10.40	-2.19
Largest Coys.	104.00	5.00	10.40	-2.19
Smaller Coys.	104.00	5.00	10.40	-2.19
Central Grade	104.00	5.00	10.40	-2.19

Largest financial shares	194.45	0.51	-	-7.33
Largest financial and industrial shares	17.54	0.08	-	-5.2

Industrials	23.51	7.30*	-	-0.08
Technology	55.30	19.79*	-	-0.63

	High	Low
Airline	188.47 (25.05.72)	80.35 (21.22.70)
1978	171.30 (20.02.79)	126.47 (05.02.78)
1976	166.82 (19.11.75)	67.69 (20.10.75)

* First interest yield.

Retardial and Non-Secretarial pointments also on pages 11 & 20

SECRETARIAL
to £3,400+
large well-known American company with prestigious
SPECIAL PROJECT P.A./SECRETARY. To £3,400
bonus.
aged 25-35, you will assist one man and apart from
correspondence, you will be involved in considerable travel
and liaison with very senior executives. Your work will
be a mixture of personal and secretarial skills and the
work will be without supervision.
An ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. To £2,700.
and mid-career, you will assist a Senior Secretary,
responsible for the company's financial and company
affairs. You will be responsible for the company's
correspondence, reports and schedules, and we
will seek a person with experience in this
large benefits include bonus, mortgage, season ticket
personal loan scheme, L.V.S. and cash lunch allowance.
CRIPPS, SEARS & ASSOC. (CONSULTANTS)

SECRETARIAL

SECRETARIAL

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